

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013  
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Stafstrom, Taylor-Moye, Olson,  
T. McCarthy, Lyons, dePara, Silva, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:30 pm.

*\*Let it be noted that the stenographer was delayed at the Contracts Committee Meeting and was unavailable to record the public speaking session comments. Please go to **www.SoundviewTV.org/Bridgeport** to view or listen to the speakers that addressed the City Council on September 16, 2013.*

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Ethan Book**  
144 Coleman Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

The history and purpose of the United Nations  
with implications for the City of Bridgeport.

*The persons below signed up to speak prior to the public speaking session - \*see note above.*

**Cecil Young; Conrad DeJesus and Clyde Nicholson.**

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

**City Council Comments for September 16, 2013 – *submitted to the city clerk.***

Council members, Bridgeport neighbors present or in the TV audience, two weeks ago on the Tuesday following Labor Day I appeared to address the subject of City Council stipends. I provided some information as background and asked you some questions of you as individuals who are part of the Council structure. Three Council persons responded to me with partial accounting of their reimbursements. I want to thank them publicly. They know who they are. That means 17 of you did not hear me or felt that my concept of quarterly public accountability for reimbursement of Council related expenses is not worthy of action or response. I am a taxpayer, one of many in the City. My questions and thoughts are not so unique that they bear being ignored. So I will briefly re-state my request. Will each of you who are running for Council in November reveal what you received during the 12 months of the Fiscal 2013 year? And will you explain what the funds were spent on towards your representation duties? The public is interested.

What I also learned since then is that one or more persons were insulted by my comments. No one explained the cause of the insult during my 5 minutes of commentary. However, I apologize to each of you if you took the comments personally, but I am sharing a reality with you.....the public at large is unhappy with failure to be accountable with funds, and your stipends are just one small piece of the City half billion dollar annual operating budget. There is a simple remedy and you do not need any other levels of government to enact it. (There are errors in City financial records regarding City Council stipends. They are small errors, but any errors cast doubt about accountability and transparency.) Report your stipend use!

As you know I take time to come to meetings, review documents, connect activity with Charter instructions and stay current with City governance. So let me point out the regular lack of public discussion or dialogue by the Council. Tonight I am participating in a “public speaking” session. You know that this is not attended by many of your members and that some evenings there are not a full complement of speakers. Is that public behavior positive in your mind for Bridgeport? Is it a sign that government is working effectively and efficiently in the City? If you are honest we only need to look back at last Tuesday for the answer when a small number of voters carried the day by electing challengers over incumbents in many cases.

Why did that happen? You have your own thoughts on the matter, but I wonder whether you contemplate any structural changes of regular and systematic formal interaction with the public. If you have been to a Board of Education meeting recently, you will hear members of the public sharing their insight, facts, or opinions with the BOE and public school leadership. Often they get a comment or response that indicates that they have been heard. Do you realize that this meeting could function in similar positive fashion?

There is no rule against this that I know of, is there? And your subcommittees could function in similar fashion.

Some of your co-chairs allow public comment and others do not. When it comes to Budget and Appropriations public input or questions are unwelcome. Why is that? What public responsibility or interruption of Council duty would place brief public comments, during a meeting and addressing agenda items only, a problem? Please let me know, or your constituents know as you address them and solicit their vote.

You have heard me mention the problems you face in responding to City initiatives and voting when you receive information too little or too late to make a proper vote on behalf of the voters. Yet you continue in the practice, when a public statement to your constituents or to the press, or to your President, might change the way the administration treats you. You know that my major emphasis has been on fiscal issues facing the City. And the more that I have dug into the information available, the less attractive the City looks to me in terms of their responsibility. And you accept Charter violations, or limitations of information flowing to you, or failure to promote good information about Capital budgets, public bonding and increasing debt including an annual meeting dedicated to soliciting ideas from the public.

Last Tuesday's primary was a day where members of the majority party came out to vote and to a large extent voted their dissatisfaction with those who were incumbents or who were supported by the administration. That is not news to any of you. But it is never too late to bring governance practices, about your own Council body, its duties and responsibilities, up to date. Share your ideas with your constituents. Listen to what they have to say. We must change our institutions and our outlooks to survive. You have a role to be active. Time will tell.

John Marshall Lee

The public speaking session ended at 7:05 pm.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members: Brannelly, Stafstrom, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, dePara, Silva, Martinez, Marella, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

**ABSENT:** Council member: Austin, Blunt, Ayala

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Prayer - Council member Olson offered the prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Brannelly led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Darryl Patron and Fernando Morales for their Act of Heroism after saving a city resident who nearly drowned while fishing at Pleasure Beach.

Mayor Finch stated that he was really proud of the recipients receiving the citation. He expressed that from time to time, they come together to recognize things of importance. In this case, there are two guys who admittedly have made mistakes in the past, but they have now become productive citizens in Bridgeport. He commented that their act of heroism hasn't received the full attention it deserved; they saved a human life and he was very proud of what they did – *the proclamation was read to applause.*

Mayor Finch also recognized Rosa Correa that was present in the audience for helping many troubled youth re-enter society.

City Council Citation: In Recognition of Darryl Patron and Fernando Morales for their Act of Heroism after saving a city resident who nearly drowned while fishing at Pleasure Beach.

Council President McCarthy stated that they always start off the city council meeting on a positive note. He expressed that he was thrilled to recognize and commend Darryl Patron and Fernando Morales for the wonderful job and service – *the citation was read extending the city council's sincerest gratitude for their selfless act – a group picture was taken with the Mayor, Council President McCarthy and Council members: Bonney, dePara and Martinez.*

Mayoral Proclamation: Recognizing the Bridgeport American Legion/ECHO Program Baseball Team for winning the 2013 16U Championship at the MJBL Inner City Classic and Black World Series.

Mayor Finch stated that there was another event that put Bridgeport on the map in a positive way. He recognized the Bridgeport American Legion/ECHO Program Baseball Team as sixteen year champions – *the proclamation was read.*

City Council Citation: Recognizing the Bridgeport American Legion/ECHO Program Baseball Team for winning the 2013 16U Championship at the MJBL Inner City Classic and Black World Series.

*The entire team came forward to accept the citation. Council President McCarthy expressed that they see so many championships won in Bridgeport – he acknowledged the name of the team members and coaches and read the citation – a group picture was taken with the Mayor, Council President McCarthy and Council members: Paoletto, Bonney, dePara and Martinez.*

The team coach thanked all the council members and he expressed that the team consisted of Latino, black and Caucasian players; noting that if it wasn't for renown baseball player Jackie Robinson; such a diverse team wouldn't have been possible – *the audience acknowledged the honor through applause.*

*Mayor Finch acknowledged Joe Bonanno who was present in the audience for his esteemed past performance making touchdowns in football.*

Roll call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Moment of Silence:

Council President McCarthy asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Navy Yard shooting that occurred in Washington today. He expressed that guns and violence was becoming more prevalent throughout major cities and when a loved one doesn't return home at night, it really strikes home.

Announcements:

Council President McCarthy announced that Council member Blunt wasn't in attendance due to illness.

*Mayor Finch commented that the two persons that were recognized for their heroism came through the Council of Churches; noting that it was a good organization.*

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: August 5, 2013

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**145-12** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Pamela Williams, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**146-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.20 Tax Incentive Development Program, amend Section 3.20.060C Miscellaneous Provisions, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**147-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 3.24 Affordable Housing Development Program, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**148-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State Department of Economic and Community Development for an Urban Act Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**149-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Tax Incentive Development Agreement for 1803 Stratford Avenue, Affordable Housing Development – Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar. There were none heard.

The city clerk read the consent calendar items into the record.

**\*73-12** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution requesting that a Streetlight be Installed on Utility Pole #3117 located in front of 57-59 Milne Street.

**\*115-12** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: (Ref. #29-09) Request that Resolution 29-09 be amended to remove the language “in and about the Island of Hispaniola” and the words “in Haiti” be placed in designated area of Resolution.

**\*117-12** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Appointment of Edward Hendricks (R) to the Fire Commission.

**\*111-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment  
Committee Report re: Adoption and Authorization to Implement the Black  
Rock School Municipal Development Plan (“BRSM DP”).

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Mayor Finch delivered the State of the City to the members of the city council –  
details of the full State of the City address can be accessed at the city’s website.**

**Mayor Finch highlighted success pertaining to Economic Development and overall  
growth in other sectors in the city in the following areas below:**

- **Steelpointe Harbor**
- **Downtown North**
- **Seaview Avenue Corridor/Harding High School**
- **Education**
- **Sustainability**
- **Capital Improvement Projects**
- **Public Safety**
- **Finance**

*\*Mayor Finch thanked the Public Works Department on educating the public about  
recycling.*

Other business:

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA RE: 85-12 RESOLUTION  
CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES TO HOUSING  
AUTHORITY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Holloway questioned why the item was being added to the agenda  
tonight and if it went before committee. Council member Brantley said yes, noting that the  
item has been before the city council previously.

Council member Holloway stated he was opposed to adding the item to the agenda.



Council member dePara asked why the matter was urgent. Max Perez, OPED stated that timing was of the essence; because they have been working with Bridgeport Housing and they finally have all the pieces in place to move forward. He explained that the matter involved six (6) parcels of property on Wayne Street.

Council member Holloway stated that he had an issue with the item coming before the council for a vote tonight. Council President McCarthy stated that the importance, pertains to a particular issue because the parcels are overgrown, the fencing is falling down and the parcel is between an apartment building and a one-family home. The property hasn't been maintained and the condition of the property poses a risk.

Council member dePara stated that he understood the safety issue, however; he questioned why there was an urgency to vote tonight. He emphasized that he would like to review the nature of the changes and he also thought the blight issues should be properly addressed.

Council member Brantley stated that the committee met earlier tonight and voted to get the item on the agenda. She pointed out that the matter has been going back and forth for a while.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION(COUNCIL MEMBERS: dePARA, BAKER, HOLLOWAY)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Holloway thanked the ECDE Committee for bringing the matter forward; however, he said there are properties in the 137<sup>th</sup> district, 138<sup>th</sup> district and the 139<sup>th</sup> district that should also be addressed and cleaned up. He stressed that they need to move forward on all blighted properties in the city.

Mayor Finch echoed Council member Holloway's comments. He stated that he would like to form a joint inspection committee to provide a report on clean up of all blighted properties in the city.

Council member Brantley encouraged everyone to come out to committee meetings and support the committee co-chairs; so that they can stay informed. Council member Holloway responded that everyone isn't able to attend all the committee meetings.

A roll call vote was requested. The city clerk took the roll and announced that there were (14) yes votes and (3) no votes.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION(COUNCIL MEMBERS: SILVA, dePARA, BAKER)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member Holloway stated that when he first joined the city council during 1994; every Wednesday before a council meeting, agenda items were submitted to the city clerk to go on the agenda. He said his issue was that items are added to the agenda when members aren't aware of the details. He emphasized that there should be a record in the city clerk's office for added agenda items.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 144-12 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CITY OF BRIDGEPORT'S TITLE VI POLICY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

City Attorney Anastasi explained that the item involved a Title VI amendment to bring it into compliance with the federal government. He clarified that they were strictly technical amendments that pertained to complaints related to race. The amendments will bring it into compliance and it will facilitate being able to obtain state and federal grants.

He further stated that although he understood that it might be premature to put an item on the agenda that has yet to be reported out of committee, this item was submitted two weeks ago and it was intended to come before the city council tonight. There was also a committee meeting held earlier tonight.

Council member dePara further questioned the matter related to time for suspending the rules and adding an item to the agenda for immediate consideration. Attorney Anastasi said the document has been submitted to the government and he reiterated that the document was submitted two weeks ago. He emphasized that it's important to OPED and other departments to keep applications proceeding.

Council President McCarthy clarified that they had to have the document updated in order to submit it to the government and to maintain access to grant funds.

City Attorney Anastasi added that technically, the item isn't considered an immediate consideration; it's considered normal business.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA RE: POLICE COMMISSION  
\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Holloway stated that in all his years on the city council, every item has been directly submitted to the Police Commission and it doesn't require city council approval.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER RE: BOARD OF POLICE  
COMMISSIONERS – INSTALLATION OF A STOP SIGN WITH A STOP LINE  
PAINTED ON THE ROADWAY AT THE END OF MONTGOMERY STREET  
WHERE IT INTERSECTS WITH COURTLAND AVENUE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM #150-12)**

\*Council member Olson questioned why there is a NO TRESPASSING sign on the Sikorsky access road. He asked if the matter has been researched yet. Mayor Finch responded that it's a private dirt road that was moved. He said they would have an answer in due time. Council member Olson made a request that he receive an answer soon.

Council President McCarthy relayed that it was the first lady of Bridgeport birthday –  
*the city council sang Happy Birthday to her!*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services